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0488863 BW1147

CITIBANK: Citibank eliminates all fees for direct banking; reduces the cost of banking for customers

May 24, 1995

Ticker Symbol: CCI

Business Editors Byline:

NEW YORK Dateline: Time:

06:43 PT 1105 Word Count:

NEW YORK--(BUSINESS WIRE)--May 23, 1995--Citibank today announced a series of fee eliminations designed to meet the changing needs and preferences of its customers in the New York Metropolitan Area. Beginning June 1, the bank will eliminate all fees for its direct banking services - those services in which customers access their personal accounts by themselves. This includes fees for electronic transactions made at Citicard Banking Centers (CBCs), or through a personal computer or the Philips Screen Phone, and fees for Citibank's Bill \square Payment \square Service. These changes apply to Citibank customers in Connecticut as well. Citibank is eliminating these fees so that a broader segment of the New York market, including both current and potential customers, can more comfortably afford the convenience and advantages of direct banking services 24 hours a day.

Citibank cited its own customers' behavior and is continuing drive to advance the Citibanking experience as the most important factors behind these fee eliminations. "Our customers have demonstrated increasing interest in direct banking, " said Willy Socquet, head of the consumer banking business in the New York Metropolitan Area.

"Currently, 80% of retail transactions are conducted by customers themselves using electronic access. Their message has been clear - they want us to continue making it easier and less costly for them tailor their own Citibanking relationship, whether using a branch or any one of our direct banking services."

The bank also offered industry research and the activity of its competitors as additional reasons for its changes. As examples, it noted that a 1995 Ernst & Young study had reported that automated banking had grown to 39% of retail banking transactions, while a 1994 study by the Bank Administration Institute had said that 57% of banking transactions are now conducted outside a branch. The bank said further evidence of the importance of direct banking is the growing number of banks that are expanding their direct banking services, and the number of non-bank companies that have begun offering such services or have announced their intention to do so. Finally, the bank said that most direct banking transactions are less labor intensive and less expensive to process. This means that they generate cost savings that can be passed on to customers and that they free bank personnel to concentrate on providing more individually tailored service and advice to customers.

Prior to this announcement, Citibank charged a 35-cent per transaction fee at its Citicard Banking Centers for accounts which did not maintain a minimum deposit of \$2,000 in checking or \$6,000 in combined deposits. For Citibank's Bill \square Payment \square Service, there was a \$3.50 per month fee for all customers, as well as a 35-cent per transaction charge for accounts that did not meet the

\$2,000/\$6,000 minimum deposit requirement. In addition, there were monthly fees of \$9.95 for banking by personal computer and \$15 for the use of the screen phone, which also carried a one-time start-up fee of \$50. In the future, the only charge associated with the screen phone will be a monthly fee of \$9.95 which goes to Philips, the phone manufacturer. Citibank's small business customers were previously charged a \$55 fee for banking by personal computer, which will also be eliminated. All other fees for small business customers remain unchanged. CitiPhone , which is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by customer service personnel, will remain free of charge, as will point-of-sale transactions (i.e. those conducted with the Citicard at grocery stores, gas stations, etc.) The \$1 per transaction fee which some Citibank customers pay to use other banks' automatic banking machines will remain in place. Standard commission charges will continue to apply to Citicorp Investment Services transactions conducted via CBCs, CitiPhone, screen phone or personal computer.

With these changes, all of Citibank's direct banking services will be available to customers at no charge and with no minimum balance requirement. This means that a customer who does not meet the minimum balance requirement, writes six checks per month and makes six CBC transactions per month can save \$25 in direct banking fees per year. Customers who make use of the PC or screen phone banking can save up to \$120 a year. No matter what form of direct banking access they choose - electronic access (CBC, personal computer or screen phone) or over the telephone (customers service representative or automated **voice** \square response \square) - customers can:

- pay bills and send money to virtually anyone
- buy or sell stocks
- get timely stock quotes
- make loan payments
- review financial transactions for past 90 days (including when specific checks cleared)
- transfer funds between accounts
- pay Citibank credit card accounts

- gain total access to one's account from outside the US Now, all of Citibank's customers can manage their banking relationships by using any of the bank's direct banking services free of charge.

Citibank will continue to conduct extensive consumer education programs to help customers understand direct banking and its benefits. At Citibank branches, staff assist customers one-on-one with signing-up for direct deposit, using CBCs for deposits and many other transactions, establishing a telephone personal identification code (TPIC) for banking by CitiPhone , and demonstrating the convenience of Citibank's Bill \square Payment \square Service. Citibank also conducts seminars in English and Spanish at community organizations to increase New Yorkers' awareness of the convenience of direct banking. The seminars are one part of Citibank's on-going program to educate consumers about banking, home mortgages, small business lending and credit cards. The bank will begin introducing new seminars for customers and community groups in late June. Topics of these seminars will include an introduction to basic banking, understanding banking access, fundamentals of credit and an introduction to banking for children.

Citibank is a subsidiary of Citicorp. There are 1,200 Citibank branches in 41 countries around the world, including 443 in seven U.S. states and the District of Columbia, with 208 in the New York Metropolitan Area.

Citibank eliminates fees for direct banking services

Previously
As of 6/1/95
Citicard Banking \$.35/transaction for customers
Centers (CBCs)
not meeting minimum balance

Centers (CBCs) not meeting min requirements (a)

Citibank on the PC \$9.95/month + Free \$.35/transaction for customers not meeting minimum balance requirements \$3.50/month +Free Citibank's Bill Payment Service \$.35/transaction for customers not meeting minimum balance requirements Free Free CitiPhone Banking

CitiPhone Banking Citibank on the PC for Small Business Point-of-sale transactions

\$55/month

Free Free

Citibank on the screen phone \$15 month + \$50 one time start-up fee

\$9.95/month (goes directly to Philips, the phone manufacturer)

Free

(a) Minimum balance requirement is \$2,000 in checking only or \$6,000 in combined deposits.

CONTACT: Citibank

Susan Weeks, 212/559-0580

or

Ruder-Finn

Michael Sullivan, 212/715-1513

KEYWORD: NEW YORK

INDUSTRY KEYWORD: BANKING

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Citibank eliminates fees for direct banking services As of 6/1/95Previously Free \$.35/transaction for customers Citicard Banking not meeting minimum balance Centers (CBCs)

requirements(a)

\$9.95/month + Citibank on the PC .

\$.35/transaction for customers not meeting minimum balance

requirements

\$3.50/month + Free Citibank's Bill

\$.35/transaction for customers Payment Service not meeting minimum balance

requirements

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for Small Business Point-of-sale

transactions Citibank on the

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\$55/month

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S7	0	S4 AND ((CHANG? OR ADD? OR DELET?)(3N)(PAYOR? ?))
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